AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations – Trivium Preparatory Academy

Issue

Trivium Preparatory Academy (TPA) submitted a request to expand charter school operations to increase its enrollment cap from 350 to 605. TPA did not meet the Board's academic performance expectations for FY2013 and FY2014, and is asking for additional consideration from the Board to be eligible to apply for expansion requests that would include a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP). The charter is authorized for grades 6-12 and has an enrollment cap of 350.

Background

Opening: The charter for TPA was approved as a replication in 2010. In the initial replication application, TPA indicated that it intended to serve grades 6-10 in year 1 with an enrollment cap of 242; grades 6-11 in year 2, with an enrollment cap of 300, and grades 6-12 in year 3, with an enrollment cap of 352.

Great Hearts Academies – Trivium Prep (GHA-TP) opened timely in 2011 serving grades 6 and 7, with an enrollment cap of 242. Board staff conducted a 1st year site visit of GHA-TP in December 2011, which was successfully closed out after addressing a single issue as noted in the 1st year site visit letter (see Appendix A).

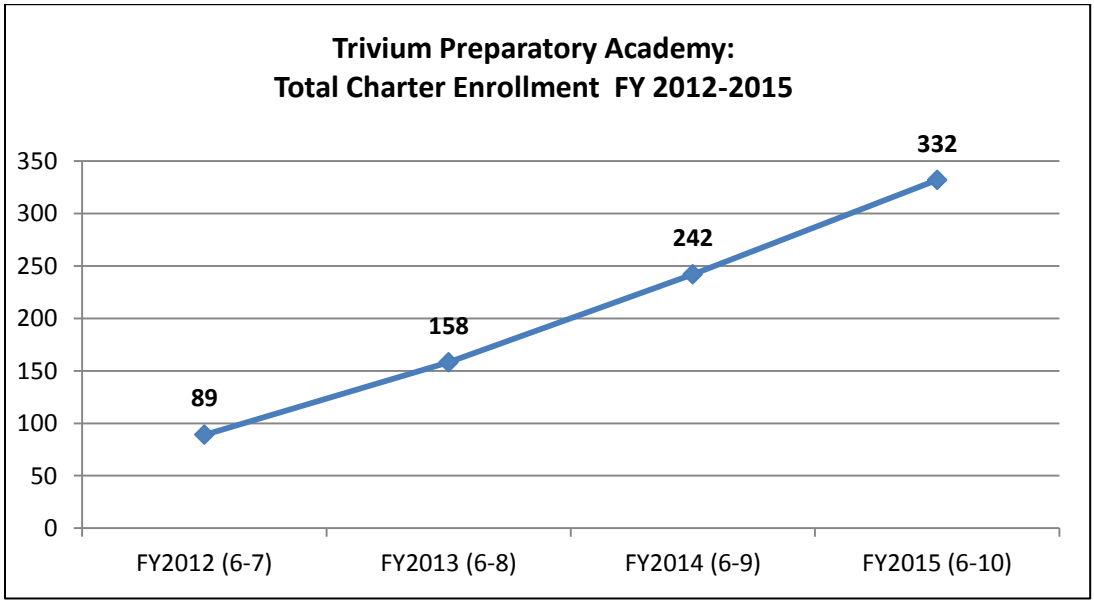
Second year of operation: GHA-TP added grade 8 in FY 2013. Based on an overall rating of Meets Standard on the 2012 academic dashboard, GHA-TP was waived from the requirement of a 2nd year site visit.

Third year of operation: GHA-TP added grade 9 in FY 2014, and was approved to move from a site shared with Great Hearts Academies – Archway Trivium to a new location at 925 N. Sarival Avenue in Goodyear. That request included facility documentation indicating a building capacity load of 2037.

Based on an overall rating of Does Not Meet Standard on the 2013 academic dashboard, GHA-TP was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) as a component of the 3rd year Annual Review. After the site visit, the DSP for TPA was found to be acceptable in all measures, with comprehensive systems addressing curriculum, monitoring instruction, assessment, and professional development, and data demonstrating improved student growth. TPA increased the enrollment cap to 350 in June 2013. At the time, the Charter Holder stated that, even after the expansion, GHA-TP would have over 370 students on its wait list.

Fourth year of operation: GHA-TP added grade 10 in FY 2015. The 2014 academic dashboard for GHA-TP showed an overall rating of Does Not Meet Standard. Based on this, TPA was assigned a Performance Management Plan (PMP) as a component of the 4th year Annual Review. The PMP was submitted timely in November 2014.

The graph below shows average daily membership (ADM) for the charter based on 100th day ADM, with FY2015 ADM based on the 40th day figures.



(Data provided by Arizona Department of Education)

Academic Performance

As stated in the Board's Academic Performance Framework and Guidance document, a Charter Holder's academic performance will be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests. The academic performance of GHA-TP is represented in the dashboard below.

Great Hearts Academies- Trivium Prep

		2012 Small Elementary School (6-7)			2013 Traditional Elementary School (6 to 8)			2014 Traditional K-12 School (6 to 9)		
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	30	25	12.5	27.5	25	12.5	33.5	25	10
	Reading	42	50	12.5	47	50	12.5	45	50	10
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	50.5	75	12.5	31.5	25	12.5	29	25	10
	Reading	51	75	12.5	48	50	12.5	45	50	10
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	87 / 44	75	11.25	79.9 / 62.2	75	11.25	81.5 / 61.7	75	11.25
	Reading	100 / 74	100	11.25	99.4 / 79.5	100	11.25	95.9 / 79.9	100	11.25
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	37.4	100	11.25	2	75	11.25	3.2	75	8.75
	Reading	20.6	100	11.25	7.8	75	11.25	3.8	75	8.75
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		B	75	5	B	75	5	B	75	5
4. Graduation		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
4a. Graduation		NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		70.94		100	59.06		100	60.66		85

The FY 2013 overall rating for GHA-TP on the Board's academic performance measures was 59.06 including points received for the letter grade of B as reported by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The FY 2014 overall rating for GHA-TP on the Board's academic performance measures increased to 60.66 including points received for the letter grade of B as reported by ADE.

Request

In the Letter of Intent submitted on December 16, 2014 (see Appendix B), the Charter Holder states the requested expansion in enrollment cap is to complete the growth in grades identified in the replication application, and to support the additional enrollment to accommodate those grades. GHA-TP serves a population that is 3% SPED, and does not report any ELL students to ADE. The enrollment cap would be increased from 350 to 460 in FY2016 to accommodate the addition of grade 11 and an additional 20 students in grade 6, and from 460 to 605 in FY2017 to accommodate the addition of grade 12 as well as 35 additional students in grade 6. While the increase in grade levels falls within the range originally approved for the replication application, the enrollment cap expansion request exceeds the original application growth plan, which identified a final enrollment cap of 352.

In their description of their capacity to accommodate the expansion, TPA identified a number of changes that have been made in the current school year aimed at addressing the academic deficiencies identified in the dashboard. These include:

- The increase in the administrative team from one shared site leader in 2013-2014 to three full-time individuals in the current year.
- Additional oversight of and professional development regarding aligning the Great Hearts classical curriculum to Arizona's College and Career Ready (ACCR) Standards.
- The adoption of supplemental curriculum aligned to ACCR Standards and focused on test-taking skills.

- The adoption of a Math intervention program aimed at students in the Bottom 25% and ELL subgroups.
- Increased use of the Galileo benchmark testing instrument to monitor student growth and identify gaps in instruction.

TPA submitted a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) in February 2014 based on the academic dashboard for FY2013. After the site visit, the DSP for TPA was found to be acceptable for all measures. As TPA has successfully demonstrated comprehensive systems addressing curriculum, monitoring instruction, assessment, and professional development, Board staff recommends that if the Board allows TPA to submit the Enrollment Cap Notification Request, the Charter Holder would be required to submit the Data component of the DSP Report, in lieu of submitting a complete DSP Report.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the request of Trivium Preparatory Academy to be eligible to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request to increase the enrollment cap to 605 with the Data component of the Demonstration of Sufficient Progress that includes benchmark data through December 2014. Following their submission, the results of Board staff's review of these items will be provided to the Board for its consideration of Trivium Preparatory Academy expansion request.

Option 2: The Board may deny the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, the Board does not find sufficient support to consider an expansion request. The Charter Holder may submit a request in the future when the academic dashboard provides evidence of additional improvement.